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April 7, 1999 7 7 9 5 '99 APR 13 A 9 :29

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305) Food and Drug Administration 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061 Rockville, MD 20852

SUBJECT: Docket #98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food."

Dear Dockets Management Branch:

I am writing in response to the pressure that the FDA is under to eliminate all irradiation labeling. I ask that you not allow labeling requirements to expire and urge that the word "irradiation" be used on applicable products and labels. Meaningful labeling is vital so that consumers can make their own healthful food choices. Since essentially all fruits, vegetables, spices and teas can be legally irradiated in the United States, consumers need to know which products actually have been irradiated so that they may choose not to buy them. I personally do not want any produce that has been irradiated and I need to be able to distinguish between those that have and those that have not been irradiated. This is an imperative issue and I urge you to act now and not allow labeling requirements to expire!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

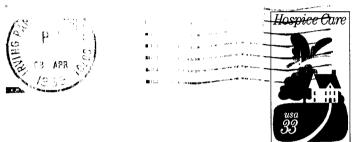
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